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Kentucky Horse Racing Commission Applauds Churchill Downs Safety Initiatives

FRANKFORT, KY – (March 2, 2009) – The Kentucky Racing Commission (KHRC) today issued a statement of support for the actions to be taken by Churchill Downs Incorporated (CDI) to improve on and off-track safety. Lisa Underwood, executive director of the KHRC, said the move by CDI builds on the many safety initiatives put into place previously by the commission.

“As Executive Director of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, I am very pleased that Churchill Downs Incorporated has made the decision to incorporate into its key safety initiatives many of the existing rules and regulations that have been put into place by the Commission for all tracks in Kentucky,” Underwood said. “The Commission voted last year to ban anabolic steroid use in thoroughbreds as well as the use of front toe grabs. Dr. Mary Scollay, Kentucky’s Equine Medical Director, has been actively involved in the development of the Jockey Club’s Equine Injury Database System in an effort to more carefully understand and mitigate injuries to horses. These are but a few of the many improvements the KHRC has implemented. Churchill Downs’ list reaffirms several of our long-standing practices, such as performing pre-race examinations on all horses and the prohibition of “milkshaking” and the requirement of on-site medical personnel and state-of-the art ambulances. I am excited that Churchill Downs

Incorporated will follow our lead in addressing the safety and integrity issues surrounding horse racing.”

Additionally, under the new contract with the Florida Racing Laboratory, post race samples in all races will be tested to TOBA specifications (“super testing”) regardless of the order of finish. As a matter of course, the KHRC tests the top four finishers in any graded stakes race.

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